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## INTELLIGENCE

**A Spooky Set-to**

**E**VER SINCE ONE OF ALEXANDER COCKBURN's friends accused another of participating in a CIA coup, Cockburn has been trying to calm the ruffled feathers. But the "accused," former New York Times reporter Kennett Love, isn't any too grateful.

In his 1984 book, *Endless Enemies*, the *Wall Street Journal's* Jonathan Kwitny cited an academic paper Love wrote about the 1953 overthrow of Iran's Mohammed Mossadegh. As the *Times's* Tehran correspondent, Love hadn't reported any CIA role in the coup, which restored the shah, but his 1960 paper detailed how the agency had "blue-printed" it. Love wrote that he had even sped the outcome by pointing some tank commanders toward the assault on Mossadegh's house.

In his *Nation* column last year, Cockburn argued that Love's help in the coup was inadvertent. He also noted that Love hadn't "submitted" the 1960 account to Allen Dulles, then CIA chief, as Kwitny charged. Rather, he wrote it for a professor at Princeton and sent it to the retired Dulles some years later. Cockburn subsequently urged Love to drop a "libel" suit against, among others, Kwitny and *National Reporter* editor John Kelly, who helped obtain Love's paper.

This irked Love further. In a letter in this week's *Nation*, he writes, "My name and supposed doings have been bandied about in your pages . . . with considerable error, beginning with Alexander Cockburn's amicable defense of me." Calling Kwitny a "skunk," the ex-*Timesman* writes that his suit is chiefly for copyright infringement, but "I might as well sue him at the same time for [libel]."

The lawyer for Kwitny and Kelly, Harriette Dorsen, said *Endless Enemies* never called Love a CIA agent. But she cited a 1977 *Times* article in which a CIA official says Love ran unpaid "errands" for the agency. Love denies knowingly helping the CIA. Still, said Dorsen, that article is "obviously supportive."